YÖK (HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL) ANNOUNCED THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF EXAMS THAT CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

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The Higher Education Council (YÖK) determined the principles to be applied from the technical support to the end-of-term digital exams to be applied in universities instead of face-to-face due to the coronavirus outbreak, and sent them to universities.

The decision of YÖK on the implementation of digital facilities or alternative methods such as homework and projects as the end of term exams and other exams for this academic year will not be carried out face-to-face due to the coronavirus outbreak in the spring term of 2019-2020 academic year at universities was announced to universities on May 11. In this context, open-ended or multiple-choice online exams, assignments, online quizzes, projects, Learning Management System (LMS) activities, LMS usage analytics and similar applications can be used in the evaluation processes to be applied in distance education.

The commission, established by the faculty members in the field of distance education from various universities within the Council of Higher Education, determined the framework of the principles regarding measurement and evaluation to be carried out in digital environment. General principles determined by the Commission were finalized by YÖK Executive Board and announced to universities in writing.

- Decisions will be limited to the period of outbreak

In the report, YÖK asked the universities to consider the general principles that should be applied in the measurement and evaluation processes to be carried out in digital environment that are limited to the global epidemic period.

Accordingly, besides online exam scores, evaluations such as assignments, projects, discussions and participation in LMS activities will be encouraged in the calculation of end-of-term success scores during the global epidemic period.

Exam safety measures permitted by the LMS or digital media will be applied in the exams to be conducted in digital environments, based on "transparency and auditability". These measures include random selection of questions, functionalization of full screen and browser lock.

Information and education activities will be held for the instructors and students about online exam applications in universities. Before the start of the exam, clear information will be given to students about the operation of the exam, the duration of the exam, scoring principles, student responsibilities, exam objections and ethical rules. Within the possibilities, priority will be given to the students who will take the exam through the e-Government portal (e-Devlet).

- Solutions for internet alternative will be made for students

New solutions will be developed to provide technical support for students who do not have access to digital media. In this context, students will be allowed to use alternative online access ways.

Students will be able to access the computer and internet facilities of the Ministry of National Education and other public institutions, if necessary, with the priority of the university units in their location.

Students who are unable to take the exam for acceptable reasons will be given an online exam opportunity for compensatory purposes. Necessary procedures will be determined for students who have technical problems to complete the exam. Plagiarism detection programs can be used to evaluate homework, project and research reports.

In online assessments, students will be given sufficient time, depending on the type of exam. All necessary measures will be taken in order to conduct the exams of disadvantaged and disabled students in a healthy way in digital environment.

Necessary arrangements will be made by the relevant higher education institutions by considering the global epidemic period conditions in the evaluation of the internship practices of students in graduation status. Exams that are not conducted on institutional systems will be recorded and archived by the instructor to be "transparent and auditable".

The course credit and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) workload will be taken into account in homework and project work. Also, in order to carry out the exam process in digital media without any interruption at universities, structures that students can get technical and administrative support will be created.